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# UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

## PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

### Section 1 - Australia and New Zealand

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02316

## II.1 AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

### 1. Beneficiary population

1. An estimate made in the early 1990s indicated the presence of some 32,400 refugees in Australia. During Australian fiscal year 1993-1994, 7,304 persons applied for refugee status in Australia. In 1994, a significant number of refugees who sought asylum in Australia came from former Yugoslavia, Asia and Africa. Australia also took in a considerable number of refugees from other regions of Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Assistance to the refugees is provided by the Government of Australia.

2. During 1994, the New Zealand Government made some 800 asylum adjudication decisions, 300 of which resulted in decisions for applications for refugee status. There were a total of 890 refugee resettlement arrivals in 1994. For 1994, the refugee quota intake by New Zealand was 737 persons. Assistance to the refugees is provided by the Government of New Zealand.

3. In addition to Australia and New Zealand, including the Cook Islands and Niue, the UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra covers ten countries in the South Pacific: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. No significant influx of asylum-seekers took place to these islands.

### 2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. In 1994, in response to governmental and public interest in UNHCR's role in international humanitarian activities, the Regional Office actively participated in various seminars, workshops and conferences.

5. In New Zealand, the participation of the Regional Office in the appeal proceedings of the Refugee Status Appeals Authority (RSAA) continued without interruption.

6. In 1994 and the beginning of 1995, Australia received several boat arrivals of Vietnamese. One group comprised Vietnamese screened-out from Galang, Indonesia, while another was composed of Vietnamese refugees who were settled in southern China.

7. As result of negotiations between the Australian and Indonesian Governments, the majority of the group of Vietnamese from Galang returned to Galang, Indonesia. Negotiations with the Chinese Government reached an agreement that these refugees should return to the country of settlement. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Governments; some persons among this group have already returned to China. UNHCR actively assisted the concerned Governments during these negotiations.

8. To deal with the issues raised by these boat arrivals, the Australian Government initiated legislation to define the application of certain refugee criteria of its national law.

## 3. 1996 country programmes

### (a) Objectives

9. As in previous years, UNHCR's primary objective in the region continues to be the promotion of international refugee law through training at various levels benefiting governmental, non-governmental and other refugee interest groups. The Regional Office will continue to advocate with government authorities on behalf of individual cases and particular groups of refugees and asylum-seekers.

### (b) Implementing partners

10. In New Zealand, the Regional Office will continue its role in the RSAA. For the South Pacific region, the Regional Office will promote awareness of, and respect for, refugee law and fundamental human rights.

11. The Regional Office will continue its various activities in public information and advocacy through its External Relations office in Sydney.

12. The UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra works in close cooperation with the relevant departments of the Australian and New Zealand Governments. The NGOs, community organizations and refugee interest groups in Australia and New Zealand all help provide needed facilities and services to asylum-seekers and refugees. The UNHCR Regional Office will seek to strengthen these efforts through further promotional activities.

### (c) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

13. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I(A/AC.96/845) refers).

#### (i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

14. The 1994 expenditure was marginally higher than revised estimates mainly due to costs associated with public information missions to Sydney pending establishment of a field location in Sydney and redeployment of a post. This was largely offset by the savings under chapters for travel and contractual services.

#### (ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

15. The revised 1995 requirements are slightly higher than initial estimates mainly due to the creation of a new post of Administrative Clerk/Receptionist in Sydney to work with the External Relations Officer.

#### (iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

16. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from 1995 revised requirements.

# UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

(in thousands of United States dollars)

| 1994 | 1995 | | 1996 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMOUNT OBLIGATED | ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM | PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION | SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE | PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION |
| **GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)** | | | | |
| 66.7 a/ | – | – | VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION | – |
| 681.1 | 754.8 | 1,009.8 | PROGRAMME DELIVERY<br>See Overview Tables (Part II) | 991.6 |
| **747.8** | **754.8** | **1,009.8** | **SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS** | **991.6** |
| 116.5 | 109.0 | 88.8 | ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT<br>See Overview Tables (Part II) | 87.9 |
| **864.3** | **863.8** | **1,098.6** | **T O T A L ( 1 )** | **1,079.5** |
| **SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)** | | | | |
| 3.6 | – | – | OTHER TRUST FUNDS | – |
| 215.4 | 129.6 | – | PROGRAMME DELIVERY<br>See Overview Tables (Part II) | – |
| 29.2 | 25.3 | – | ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT<br>Junior Professional Officer<br>See Overview Tables (Part II) | – |
| **248.2** | **154.9** | **0.0** | **T O T A L ( 2 )** | **0.0** |
| **1,112.5** | **1,018.7** | **1,098.6** | **GRAND TOTAL (1+2)** | **1,079.5** |

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes